GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1242
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
TEXTILE PRODUCTS UNDER ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT
Prabhu Shri Suresh Prabhakar

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take out the textile products from the ambit of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) whether instances of hoarding of textile products have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, State-wise; and

(e) the other products proposed to be deleted from the ambit of the said Act?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The Government proposes to delete the textile products like cotton and woolen textiles, raw cotton either ginned or unginned and cottonseeds and yarn made wholly from cotton from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These commodities were placed in the list of essential commodities under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to control their production, supply, distribution, trade and commerce in the interest of the general public. In the context of liberalization, and globalization of the Indian economy, a liberalized trade regime which ensures the availability of textiles and clothing at competitive prices, the regulation of production, distribution, price control etc. of these items are no longer required.

(c) & (d): No Sir.

(e) : In addition to textile items, other commodities namely,
(i) Cattle fodder, including oilcakes and other concentrates,
(ii) Coal, including coke and other derivatives,
(iii) Component parts and accessories of automobiles
(iv) Iron and Steel, including manufactured products of Iron & Steel,
(v) Paper, including newsprint, paperboard and strawboard,
(vi) Raw Jute,
(vii) Fertilizer, whether inorganic, organic or mixed, are also proposed to be deleted from the purview of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, as the concerned Ministries/Departments have already made alternate mechanism to regulate the trade in the context of present requirements. Their continuance in the list of essential commodities does not serve the purpose of the Act. However, essential commodities viz.
(i) Wheat

(excluding wheat products), paddy, rice, sugar and sugarcane,
(ii) Edible Oils and edible oil seeds,
(iii) Drugs,
(iv) petroleum and petroleum products,
(v) Seeds of food crops, fruits, vegetables, cattle fodder and jute, are proposed to be retained within the purview of the Act.